



A very rare, historical and memorable picture of the days of

M.U. Aligarh 1935
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A very rare and historical picture of the day when The Turkish Lady Who Came to M.U Aligarh

Sitting from right to left: (4) Khalida Adeeb Khanum (5) Nawab Muhammas Ismail Khan and Standing in the back row from right to left 1st (1) is Mir Muhammad Amin Khan Khosa, when he was the Students and was the Vice President of Students Union of the Muslim University Aligarh

Khalida Adeeb Khanum, the famous Turkish writer, journalist and political activist, was one of the leaders of the women's liberation movement and promotion of female education in Turkey in the twilight years of the Ottoman Empire. Later, following Turkish defeat in the First World War, she joined up with Mustafa Kamal Ataturk in the armed struggle to rid Turkey of the Western occupying forces and to establish a secular, democratic constitution.

She was hugely popular among Indian Muslims. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, the venerated leader of the Indian freedom movement, invited her in 1935 to visit India and to deliver a series of extension lectures at the Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. She travelled extensively, visiting many cities in India and meeting almost all important leaders. She also visited AMU, and was enthusiastically welcomed at the Student's Union by a lively body of students. Following are a few of her recorded impressions about the AMU:

"This is a unique institution. One of its distinguishing features is that it has long-standing traditions and the students are fiercely proud and protective of them, following them scrupulously on all occasions. The Student Union invited me to address them and conferred honorary membership on me. The speeches were delivered mostly in Urdu, but listening to them, for the first time, it dawned on me that the Urdu language was far more sweet and melodious than Persian was. Its pronunciation, harmonious elocution and musical rhythms were mesmerizing.

"As I stood up to give my talk at the podium, I was taken aback by the sudden deluges of flowers, raining on me, seemingly coming from every direction and covering me profusely. As I looked up to see where they were coming from, I noticed two men shoveling loads of flowers and petals through openings in the skylight of the auditorium.

"I was overwhelmed by the affection showered on a little old lady, like myself."

(Adapted from the Urdu translation of her book, Inside India, published in 1937 in Paris)